

NEW MOUNTAIN SEEN IN PERAK.

ON a spur of the Gûnong Bubu Range, which lies a short distance inland from the coast of Pêrak, in Latitude $4^{\circ} 35'$ N. and Longitude $100^{\circ} 50'$ E., the Government of Pêrak has opened an experimental plantation at an elevation of 3,200 feet on a hill named Gûnong Ârang Para. The bungalow on this hill is named "The Hermitage," and from that spot I saw, on the morning of the 15th instant, a very lofty mountain, not previously discerned from this point, though a European (Mr. Bozzolo) has been living on the hill for more than 18 months.

On the night of the 14th there was a thunderstorm with heavy rain, and when the morning of the 15th broke, the mountain ranges could be seen to an immense distance with great clearness.

Looking in an easterly direction across the valley of the Pêrak River towards the succession of ranges, which must lie near the junction of Pêrak, Kêlantan and Pahang, I noticed what appeared to be a lofty mountain with a filmy cloud on its southern slope.

Mr. Bozzolo, who was with me, thought there was no mountain, only a cloud, but fortunately we had a powerful telescope and binoculars and with their assistance an exceedingly lofty mountain was distinctly visible at a distance that I guess to have been about sixty miles. I immediately took the bearing of this mountain and found it to be 102° , *i.e.*, about 12° South of East. The mountain has a wide uneven top with steep sides, which rose from a thick bank of white cloud and through this cloud appeared three or four black spots, evidently the rocky points of another lower and nearer mountain or range, while the cloud shewed there was a great distance between them and the more distant and far more lofty mountain which first attracted my attention.

At a rough guess, this mountain looked to me as if it might be 11,000 feet or 12,000 feet high, perhaps even more, for within a radius of 25 miles there were many peaks between 6,000 feet and 7,000 feet to judge by.

Within a very few minutes of first sighting the mountain it was no longer visible, and even the cloud seemed to have merged in the haze of the horizon, making it difficult to believe that we had really

seen there a far more imposing height than any I have yet beheld in the Peninsula.

All the other peaks and ranges were still wonderfully clear and I immediately made a sketch of all I could see from the Plus Valley to the limit of vision in the South.

Thinking this sketch would interest the Straits Asiatic Society, I have had a tracing made which I now enclose.*

The tracing is not so successful as I had hoped it might be, but still it gives an idea of the mountain ranges as I saw them, and I trust I may yet be able to furnish you with some further and better information regarding this considerable mountain which lies in the direction of the mountain marked on the Asiatic Society's map as Gûnong Tahan, though that would appear to be more than 100 miles distant from Gûnong Bubû.

The point in that range called on the Society's map "Bukit Chai" is about the position of Gûnong Ârang Para.

The outline of the range which divides the Pêrak from the Kinta River (the highest point of which is Gûnong Mêru) has been made, in the tracing I enclose, rather darker than that of the more distant ranges.

The highest ground between the Plus and Kinta valleys is not more than 300 feet, and this is imperceptible from "The Hermitage," so that the Kinta valley appears to come round the back of the Mêru range into the Plus valley.

The range of hills which divides the head waters of those rivers which drain into the Plus valley, and ultimately into the Pêrak River, is not very distant from the East Coast of the Peninsula and an officer of this Government (Mr. CAULFIELD), who did not get nearly to the sources of these rivers, told me he had seen the waters of the China Sea from the point he *did* reach, this feeder of the Pêrak River stretching far to the West and North, and taking its rise in a very lofty range of mountains well within sight of the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula.

F. A. S.

Kuâla Kangsa,
21st April, 1884.

* To be seen in the Library. [ED.]

[Mr. McCARTHY, a Surveyor who accompanied a Siamese Commissioner, in August last, to meet the Resident of Perak near the frontier of Patani where it borders on Ulu Perak, ascended a mountain called Gunong Hangus close to the border. "It is about 4,200 feet high and presented no considerable difficulties in the ascent. He got an excellent set of angles including Gunong Inas and the high peak of Patani and also saw a mountain of very great elevation to the Eastward of South, fifty or sixty miles off. This is probably the one mentioned by DEANE as more than 13,000 feet high, which is supposed to be in Pahang behind the Ulu Bernam." Sir HUGH Low's Journal, Aug. 23rd, 1883.

W. E. M.]